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NSC BRIEFING

1 December 1954

CHINESE OFFSHORE ISLANDS

I. Commie harassment Nationalist islands
expected continue through winter.

A. Amphib assaults on even major
islands possible any time, but
Commies still seem uncertain
about US intentions.

B. Moreover, assault of Tachens
or Quemoy's costly even against
Nats alone.

II. Of major groups, Tachens most vulnerable
to Commie harassment, because at end of
Taipei's longest supply line (plus 200 mi).

A. Commie air can hamper Tachens 25X1D0a
supply. [REDACTED] new
airfield building near Haimen.

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- B. Commies could also hamper supply with artillery on islands north and west. [REDACTED] 25X1D0a
several new artillery sites on these islands.
- C. Loss of Nat DE near Tachens (14 Nov) may discourage Taipei from risking other guard vessels, make both islands and shipping more vulnerable to Commie naval fire.
- D. Morale of Nats in Tachens could be weakened by capture of outlying islands (Yushans, Ichiang, Pishan, Nanchishan) most of which bombed during Nov.
- E. Under such pressures, Taipei might decide withdraw Tachens garrison.

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III. Similar harassment could be extended to Matsus, Quemoy.

A. Commies reportedly setting artillery on mainland NW of Matsus.

B. Quemoy shelled intermittently throughout November.

IV. Commie action against Wuchiu--isolated and unimportant island between Quemoy and Matsus--was greatly exaggerated by press.

A. This due mistake by Nat commander on Wuchiu, who sent signal for Commie landing rather than shelling.

B. All sources agree several Commie patrol vessels shelled Wuchiu 26 November.

C. Was third such shelling Wuchiu this year.

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D. Some sources say large number
Commie junks tried to land
after shelling, but doubtful
landing attempt really made.

V. Possible Commie submarine activity
recently.

A. Nat DE may have been hit by
surfaced sub rather than by
torpedo boats as reported.

B. On 26 Nov., Nat DE reportedly
made sonar contact 14 miles
SE Tachens. Nats believe
contact was sub.

C. Nat officer reports sighting
of sub two miles west Wuchiu
26 Nov.

D. Commies believed have three to
six subs based at Tsingtao.

E. Confirmation of above reports--
showing Commie subs capable of
operating far from base--would
have major significance for
Nat navy and perhaps for US
7th Fleet units as well.